



MEMORANDUM TO: Jonathan Blackmer  
RE: Kerry Thornley  
FROM: Jim Garrison

Purpose of this memo is to summarize and to note down some additional random leads -- based upon evidence obtained by me in the late '60's and still obtainable -- not presently represented by statements directly at hand or immediately locatable in any files available to us. However, all of the information hereunder is confirmable and most of the specific supporting material is likely to be obtained shortly.

1. Barbara Reid's recollection of Thornley and Oswald in New Orleans together following the former's return from Mexico City.

Barbara Glancy Reid (921 Chartres Street, 522-9212) encountered Kerry Thornley and Lee Oswald together at the Bourbon House one evening. (It should be kept in mind that Kerry Thornley's WC testimony is to the effect that he never saw Lee Oswald while in New Orleans.) From Kerry Thornley's conversation, it was apparent to her that he had just returned from Mexico City. Previously, unlike Lee Oswald who had thin hair and wore it short, Kerry Thornley had always worn his hair long. Now it was noticeably thinned down to the point where Reid told them that they looked "like the Gold Dust Twins."

This is only one example of Mrs. Reid's value as a witness worth interviewing. She is knowledgeable not only about an aspect of the Kerry Thornley - Lee Oswald relationship, as indicated above, but about several other characters of interest. Reid is highly intelligent, acute in observation and recollection (especially as to French Quarter characters and activities in the 1960's) and her veracity, in my judgment, is beyond question. In view of subsequent Kerry Thornley developments and potential, a new, detailed interview of Mrs. Reid may be in order.

2. Statements of Magazine Street neighbors of the relationship of Kerry Thornley and Marina Oswald:

This point is relative to Kerry Thornley's denial before the Warren Commission that he knew that Lee Oswald was in New Orleans at the same time he was. Neighbors of the Oswalds responded positively to Thornley's picture. Some of them, in fact, stated that they had seen Kerry Thornley going to the grocery store (a Winn-Dixie, as I recall, so often together that they thought he was her husband -- and, following the news publicity of the assassination, were confused by Oswald's picture in the papers. An effort will be made to locate copies of these neighbors' statements, but, if this is not successful, a newly initiated approach to that area of Magazine Street still might be productive in view of the positiveness of the response of the neighbors on this point, to Kerry Thornley's picture.

3. Kerry Thornley's time spent in Washington (with special reference to his readiness as a witness for the government's investigation of the assassination):

After having spent several years in New Orleans, Kerry Thornley departed precipitately several days after the assassination, leaving a note for his landlord to the effect that he would be somewhere in the Washington area (see statement of Jack Spenser). We subsequently established (this is in memo of ADA Andrew Sciambra whom we sent to Washington on the follow up) that Kerry Thornley established himself in a relatively expensive apartment house in Arlington, Virginia. He had a job at the place as "doorkeeper", but we learned from the management that his partment cost more than his total income as manager.

Thornley remained in Arlington until the spring of 1964 (approximately April) when his rather extensive testimony before the Warren Commission occurred. Afterwards, he left the Washington area, heading west to attend a college (a rather unique institution of Ayn Rand orientation). More recently (seventeen years later) he is attending -- if that term can be applied to a drop-out -- Georgia State University, where is most perceptible activity seems to be hanging around the campus, (I happened to see him there last year and by then he was wearing his hair down to his shoulders. I also have the impression that he has picked up something of a beard as well, but am not positive on that point. Clothes very scruffy.)

4. Kerry Thornley's appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in the late '60's:

Although Kerry Thornley committed perjury in several demonstratable instances (primarily in testifying that he was not in association with Lee Oswald in New Orleans ) -- and was subsequently charged with it -- his Grand Jury testimony should be obtained from the present District Attorney (it will already be in typed form inasmuch as in Orleans Parish all Grand Jury testimony is automatically transcribed.) In the meantime, here are some of the few items I can recall (after approximately 10 years) from his testimony.

He conceded having left New Orleans for an extended trip (objective was ostensibly to see his family in Los Angeles) in the late summer of 1963. He travelled by bus.

The route of the bus went through Dallas, Texas, although he denied spending any time there.

He admits making a side trip, in connection with the main trip, to Mexico City. (This would be sometime in September, 1963. My impression is that he claimed it was early September). His reason for the visit to Mexico City was very vague (e.g. "I had always wanted to go there").

By the time of my questioning of Thornley, before the Grand Jury, I had picked up from some(now long forgotten) sources, that language training for Marine intelligence trainees at Atsugi Air Base in Japan and at Toro Marine Base was limited to Russian and Spanish. I asked Thornley whether he, like Oswald, happened to

May 25, 1967

We received information that LEE HARVEY OSWALD attempted to register to vote in East Feliciana Parish in the latter part of September or early October, 1963, during Civil Rights demonstration. On May 23, 1967, we interviewed HENRY EARL PALMER, registrar of voters in East Feliciana. PALMER stated that during these Civil Rights demonstrations, a man came to him to register to vote in said Parish. This man identified himself thru U.S. Armed Forces ID card and stated he was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. The reason he was outstanding and remembered was because he and another white male, ESTUS MORGAN (now deceased - automobile accident - Tangipahoa Parish) were the only two white persons in a line of colored people awaiting registration to vote. During this time on the day he (OSWALD) was in line to register, a black Cadillac automobile (occupied by two white males - one large, well dressed, white haired, tan complexion, the driver - the other a bushy eyebrowed darker complexion smaller man, the passenger) stayed parked in front of Corcoran's Drug Store on Main Street, Clinton. This automobile remained parked all day and after OSWALD's attempt to register and failure because of proper backing concerning his residence in that parish, a white female, GLORIA WILSON (now deceased - internal hemorrhage due to enlarged heart) saw OSWALD get into this black Cadillac and leave. MRS. CORCORAN (also deceased - natural causes) also saw OSWALD enter this automobile. Late the afternoon of this incident GLORIA WILSON made this statement to HENRY EARL PALMER: "Your Civil Rights workers are riding better than you are." PALMER asked why, she answered, "He got into that Cadillac parked in front of the drug store." As of now we have been unable to find anyone else to whom she made this statement.

MR. PALMER is willing to make formal statement to this effect. MR. PALMER was shown pictures of CLAY SHAW and DAVID FERRIE on May 25, 1967. He positively identified CLAY SHAW as the driver of this Cadillac before mentioned. He was unable to identify FERRIE as the passenger with SHAW. JOHN MANCHESTER, Town Marshal, Clinton, Louisiana, was also shown these pictures as he had seen this automobile, had been requested by PALMER to run a 10-28 (license registration) on the Cadillac - had done so through ESSIE C. WATSON, radio operator for the Sheriff's Office in Clinton. This was done and both MANCHESTER and PALMER distinctly remember "International Trade Mart, New Orleans" as having been part of the identification of this license. However, MANCHESTER was unable to positively identify either photograph shown him. He does state that he seems to remember going to this car and questioning the occupants (this was regular routine because of Civil Rights demonstrations at that time, however, two white people in a line of negroes did attract attention as unusual.) Photographs of SHAW and FERRIE do look highly familiar to MANCHESTER.

On May 22, 1966, ESSIE WATSON stated to PALMER that she remembered running 10-28 on black Cadillac in 1963- then on May 23, 1966, to us she stated she remembered nothing about it. PALMER will verify this.

Morgan

Route 1, Box 275  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387  
December 28, 1967

Tom Bethell  
District Attorney's Office  
2700 Tulane Ave.  
New Orleans, La. 70119

Dear Mr. Bethell:

I appreciate your phoning me the other day and regret that my studies had been so inconclusive when I sent them to you in previous letters. Weisberg had been so positive about Zapruder's frame 255 corresponding with Altgens' picture that I worked from that assumption until forced to give it up, as I told you over the phone.

I inclose herewith the revised statement about what I found on the Altgens photograph along with a drawing illustrating what I have to say. I hope it can be helpful to you. I sent a copy to Weisberg because I felt he should be armed for a coming television show at which the disparity between his reconstruction of the assassination and that of Josiah Thompson might come up, mentioning that I would want you to have prior rights or use of it if there were question about where it could be best used.

William Turner's article on "The Garrison Commission" in Ramparts is excellent. I wish I could get a hundred reprints to send to people who ought to read it. I'm going to write to Ramparts requesting them, and I should think you folks would want reprints too.

One point in Turner's article I wish would get improved on by critics of the Warren Report. Turner mentions only a flicker of recognition of Ruby on Oswald's part at the time of the Oswald murder. In my article in Penn Jones' paper I quote from two policemen's testimony that Oswald said as his last words "Jack Ruby, you son of a bitch, don't." I have wondered why people don't latch onto this as important evidence. □

If there is any way I can be of help, please call on me.

Sincerely,

*Griscom Morgan*

Griscom Morgan

What does the Altgens Photograph prove about the Kennedy Assassination and the Warren Report?

The Altgens photograph taken at the time of the assassination must have been the source of much anguish on the part of the government personnel working on the Kennedy assassination, for not only did it show what appears to be Lee Harvey Oswald in the doorway of the Depository Building, but, as Harold Weisberg discovered, it shows the placement of the presidential limousine in relation to the road marks, thus precisely placing the picture. But I have nowhere seen in the assassination literature a sound evaluation or analysis of just what this means to the reconstruction of the assassination. Harold Weisberg has had so much ground to cover in his investigations that he cannot be expected to delve exhaustively into each of the leads his work has uncovered. And because there was an element of inconclusiveness in his treatment of this aspect of the case Josiah Thompson has been able to ignore it in his reconstruction of the assassination in Six Seconds in Dallas. It is high time that this source of confusion and difference among the students of the assassination was cleared up, and I propose to do so here.

The Altgens photograph clearly shows reaction <sup>to the first shot</sup> on the part of secret servicemen in the motorcade. These on the right running board of the follow-up car behind the President's limousine had turned their heads to look back over their right shoulders, and the follow-up car behind the Vice-President's car had its door opened. There are other evidences less obvious. It was imperative to the conclusions of the Warren Report that this picture, which had been given wide publicity, should be placed well after the assumed beginning of the shooting. The Report assumed that the beginning of the shooting was about frame 210 on the Zapruder moving picture sequence, since that was the time the president had come in sight of the window at which Oswald was presumed to have been shooting, from behind the obscuring tree. The Warren Report states that the Altgens picture was taken at frame 255 of the Zapruder series; and Weisberg assumes this to have been true, while yet making his discovery that the full uncropped Altgens picture shows the presidential limousine where the Warren Report asserted the limousine was at Z210 as the time of the first shot. This means that either the Warren Report's assertion as to the correlation of the Zapruder pictures with the road was wrong, or that its statement of the coordination of the Altgens photograph with the Zapruder pictures was wrong, in either case disproving the Report. The ~~at~~ <sup>of</sup> reaction to the shooting shown on the Altgens photograph, located ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> the place on the road at which the Warren Report had assumed to be about the place of the first shot, ~~therefore~~ it would be ~~a~~ <sup>full</sup> 45 frames off from what the Warren Report had stated.

The question follows, why did the FBI for the Warren report identify the Altgens photograph as being taken at the same time as Zapruder's 255th moving picture frame? The FBI's photographic expert, Shaneyfelt, testified (5H158) that Altgens' picture was taken "well past the signboard, well past (Zapruder's) 249, which is the last frame we considered." Commissioner McCloy responded, "well past the evidence of reaction."

The Warren Report asserts, in discussing the first shot, that "comparison of (Altgens) photograph with the Zapruder film, . . . revealed that Altgens took his picture at approximately the same moment as frame 255 of the movie, 30 to 45 frames (approximately 2 seconds) later than the point at which the President was shot in the neck." Shaneyfelt must have known this was not true, he must have known that the Altgens picture was taken about the same time as frame 210 of the Zapruder pictures, for he with other FBI staff had reconstructed the position of the limousine at the time of the Altgens picture for the Warren Report's Commission Exhibit 900, and he must have known from this positioning what the Commission's and the FBI's map can show us now, that the Stemmons sign that concealed President Kennedy from Zapruder's photograph in his frame 210 also concealed the portion of the road on which the President was riding at the time of the Altgens photograph. On the map drawn for and used by the FBI, the Secret Service and the Commission as C.E. 882, the beginning of the fourth road mark, at which the presidential limousine was entering, can be shown to be at the end of the area blanked out by the Stemmons sign, proving that this was approximately Zapruder frame 210. This map shows marks at twenty-five foot and hundred foot intervals of the travel of the Presidential limousine. The Warren Report asserted that the position of the presidential limousine at the time of Zapruder's 210th picture was 139 feet from the edge line of Houston street (position "C"). It asserts that "the President was probably shot between frames 210 and 225, which marked his position between 138.9 and 153.8 feet west of station C." Yet the official surveyor's chart will prove that the limousine was passing through this area at the time of the Altgens photograph, which shows such clear evidence of reaction to the first shot. In the Commission's exhibit 900 the reenactment of the Altgens scene is presented showing a surveyor's transit behind the stand-in for the presidential limousine. It is inconceivable that these gentlemen who were accurate to the tenth of a foot in their measurements did not measure from the President's position, or from just the position of the limousine to station C to determine the precise position of the President at the time of the Altgens photograph. Therefore we can identify FBI photographic expert Shaneyfelt as one of those people who are personally responsible -- however much he may have worked under orders -- for falsification of the evidence so as to make it seem that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy.

As further evidence of Mr. Shaneyfelt's personal responsibility, there is the fact that he supplied the Warren Commission a reversed order of frames of the fatal head shots as shown in Zapruder's pictures, confusing the impression from these enlargements of a shot from in front, and that he had supplied the Commission a copy of the Zapruder moving picture in which the crucial frames from 207 to 213 (showing the President's reaction to the first shot before concealed by the Stemmons sign) were missing.

We conclude that with the revised timing of shots Lee Harvey Oswald could not have fired the first shot at President Kennedy (concealed from the window by a tree), and that this shot must have come from the Records Building which alone would give the light necessary for the 30° angle, determined by the autopsy as <sup>(30° from vertical)</sup> angle of entry.

Intensive study of the mechanics of the assassination has led to more and more accurate determinations of the sequence and sources of the shots. I have not read Raymond Marcus's Bastard Bullet, nor have I seen Sylvia Meagher's new book, though I have it on order. But I will include here what I have figured out.

The autopsy report's finding of a  $45^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$  angle of entry of the bullet in the back of President Kennedy must be taken rather seriously. It would be the angle from the verticle on the prone body. This would be equivalent to a  $30^{\circ}$  to  $45^{\circ}$  angle from the horizontal position of the rifleman. By guess in looking at the photographs I had assumed that the steeper angle could be achieved from the "assassins window" in the Depository Building, when the Presidential limousine was nearer to it. But careful determination by measurement shows this not to be the case, and that the only place from which this angle could have been achieved during the range of position at which the President was shot was the top of the Records Building, which would have given the  $30^{\circ}$  which was within the range of the autopsy reports statement.

If we make use of the photographer's nervous responses recorded on the Zapruder series as indicating the timing of shots, with about a five frame delay for the travel of sound through the air and the action of the nervous system, the evidence suggests the following:

Since Agent Bennett had stated that he had heard the sound of one explosion before he looked and saw a bullet enter Kennedy's back, we would assume that the first shot missed, perhaps hitting the windshield hardware, and was from behind as was the second shot about five frames later which would have hit the President's back. This would account for the first two nervous reactions on Zapruder's film at frames 190 and 195. Conceivably the first shot was shot through the opening in the tree at frame 186 from the "sniper's nest" in the Depository Building, and the second pretty certainly was from the Records Building, thus accounting for two sources in the rear. The third shot about frame 203 could not account for the bullet hitting to the left and rear of the presidential limousine if that shot did indeed correspond with the location noted by FBI agents and quoted in Whitewash II on page 37., for that location would not have been to the left and rear of the limousine until about the time of Governor Connolly's shot. It is conceivable that two nearly simultaneous shots took place here as they must have done at the time of the fatal head shot. This pavement shot, as I noted and argued in my earlier statement would have come from the Depository west window.



Morgan,

Route 1, Box 275  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387  
January 5, 1967

Vincent Salandria

Dear Vince:

I have been trying to track down the reasons for the difference in reconstruction of the assassination between Josiah Thompson and most of the others working on the case. I thought you could probably help me with this.

Thompson's theory about the "bastard bullet" coming from Oswald's Carcano was an obvious one that first occurred to me as it must have to many others. There is a good deal to support it, but there is also much to refute it, and all reference to such other evidence was left out of Thompson's article (I have not seen the book). This has led to suspicion and confusion which does not help in the clarification of the case.

The evidence left out of Thompson's article includes the two or three bullets that missed the League bullet, and the bullet that witnesses testified hit to the left and rear of the presidential limousine that is confirmed by the FBI finding of a bullet mark that traced to the west window of the Depository Building (the window at which Rowland had seen a rifleman with another man). There is also the mark on the west wall of the jail that Penn Jones located that might have been a miss. The one located by the FBI would have corresponded in time with the bullet that hit Connolly, thus maintaining the time coordination of shooting from different locations that would have been necessary to make it appear that the cross fire had and could have come from but one location.

Other major evidence against Thompson's reconstruction is that Weisberg has shown that the Willis photo, presumably taken immediately after the first shot, corresponds with Zapruder's 202nd frame; and that the autopsy finding as reported by the FBI tells of the angle of entry into Kennedy's back as 45 to 60 degrees, which would correspond with 45 to 30 degrees from the horizontal in shooting. This could not have been met by a shot from the sixth floor of the Depository Building, and could only have been fulfilled from the top of the Records Building.

I respect Thompson for his overcoming preconceptions about Oswald being the rifleman and for a good job on the fatal shot evidence. Yet he left out the rather important evidence mentioned in the CBS four hour documentary that each jiggle that caused a blur in the Zapruder pictures might be attributed to noise as from a shot. This alone would help in the reconstruction. For the blurrings are reported to be at frames 90, 95, 203, 227 and what would correspond to the time of the fatal shot, allowing about five frames for the passage of sound and the response of the nervous system. This would tend to confirm Glen Bennett's testimony that he heard a shot before he saw a bullet hit the President's

back. If that first bullet had been shot at 2185 (when the President was momentarily in sight from the tree), and missed, the second bullet that hit would have been from the Records Building and conceivably the third that hit the jail was from the wooded knoll, as Penn Jones figured it would have been from the position of limousine and mark. The 227 blurring on Zapruder's film would correspond with both the Connolly hit and the shot from the west end of the Depository building that hit the street to the left rear of the limousine. Where Teague's hit came from is the next question, and how it fits into the pattern of Zapruder responses. The final blurring would be the almost simultaneous shots from behind and from the wooded knoll. This timing of shots together throughout the shooting would help explain why there were such wild hits. If the rifleman had planned to coordinate, they would have each fired on each occasion even if not ready for an effective shot. Radio coordination and much practice together would have been required.

Weisberg wrote me "Of the many disreputable things the government has done, leaking part of Jim's alleged medical file, a knowing libel, is one of the fouler. It is in factual error, besides." I am curious to know the facts on the matter because I have record of a number of cases in which an army officer had ordered psychiatrist to find a subordinate insane in order to get rid of a personal problem and to avoid the findings or difficulty of a court martial. General George Marshall asked a general to study the mental health situation in the military forces, and the general's report was, at Marshall's urging, written up into a book. One item in this report was with regard to the rather common misuse of military authority in getting doctors to diagnose mental illness for non-medical reasons. A friend of mine who had been a prominent surgeon and professor of surgery at a good medical school had been asked to enlist in the armed services because of his pioneering work in teaching surgery. He found himself working under an unqualified butcher who had his medical staff dangerously in revolt and demoralized because of what he was doing. My friend went over his head and spoke to the commanding general. Thereupon he was promptly found dangerously insane and sent to work in the most dangerous and active theater of the war. He has long since been trying to awaken the medical profession to the danger to American civil liberties in this process, but has been told to forget it, that the armed forces are like that and there is nothing you can do about it. And now this evil is coming home to roost in the Administration't dealing with Jim Garrison.

I'll send a copy of this to Garrison.

Best wishes,

Griscom Morgan

Route 1, Box 275  
Yellow Springs, Ohio  
January 5, 1968

Jim Garrison  
District Attorney, New Orleans

Dear Mr. Garrison:

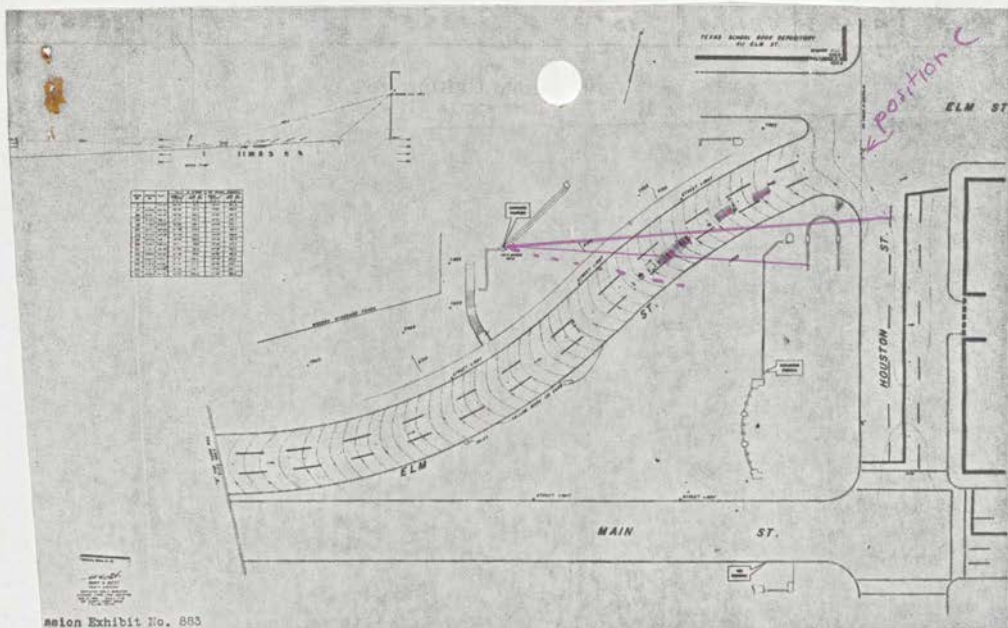
I am sending herewith a copy of a letter I wrote Vince Salandria because I thought the last paragraph might be of interest or value to you.

I just got word from Weisberg that all my speculation on the Altgens photograph, about which I have sent too many letters to your office, was wrong because his conclusions about the Altgens photo were wrong. It had been taken at the fifth instead of at the fourth road mark.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Griscom Morgan*  
Griscom Morgan



Commission Exhibit No. 883

broken red line indicates position of President at Zapruder #255  
at 182' from "C", COMMISSION EXHIBIT 883 clearly past fourth road stripe.

Area between red lines beyond  
sign obstructed by sign from  
Zapruder photograph. Position of  
cars at time of Altgens photograph  
show also in red. This corresponds to  
position shown in Zapruder frame 210-112

901